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**Date:** Mon, 19 Dec 2005 23:15:47 +0000  
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**DOT-Pf, State of Alaska: To whom it may concern**

**December 19, 2005**

These are the comments of the Unalakleet IRA Council, the governing body of the Native Village of Unalakleet, duly established and organized in 1939 under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, as amended. The Unalakleet IRA Council convened in a duly noticed session on December 15, 2005, and comment as follows on the cancellation of the Community Roads Improvements and Extension Project from the 2004-2006 STIP List:

1. One of the priority issues before the Unalakleet IRA Council is the need for improvement of community roads. For example, the new BIA Road is too narrow for two-road traffic, and poses potential hazards for frequent use of the road. The IRA Council has actively sought support from State legislators on this issue. The IRA Council also seeks improvement for the other roads and trails in the community.
2. Hand-in-hand with the need for road improvements, is the IRA concern about the need for dust control in and around the community of Unalakleet. Many residents dry their fish on fish racks in the village, and the ever-present dust poses a health hazard vis-a-vis the fish-drying, as the different species of salmon are a subsistence foods mainstay of the village residents. The lack of dust control also poses health hazards for the young children and the Elders, especially those who presently suffer from asthma and related health problems. The dust problems are so severe on some days that residents do not dare leaving their windows open to allow sufficient air circulation in their homes.
3. The lack of road improvements results in the creation of potholes, especially during spring break-up and the ubiquitous fall winds and storms. Not only are these potholes a hazard to travellers, but also to the cargo on the freight and mail trucks, which traverse the roads daily.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this request that DOT-PF place the Community Road Improvements and Extension project back on the 2004-2006 STIP List. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

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